

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the office action dated July 13, 2007.

The Examiner objected to the specification, contending that it lacked a "Summary of the Invention" section. This section is not required to be a part of a patent application, though *if* it is included, it should precede the detailed description. *See, e.g.* 37 CFR § 1.73 ("A brief summary of the invention should . . . *when set forth*, be commensurate with the invention as claimed and any object recited should be that of the invention as claimed.") (emphasis added). The applicant therefore requests that the Examiner's objection to the specification be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 10-12, 15-20, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,012,333 (hereinafter Lee) in view of Komatsu, U.S. Patent No. 5,247,588. The Examiner rejected claims 5-9 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Lee in view of Komatsu and in further view of Dieschert et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,571,511. Claims 25 and 31 have been canceled.

Independent claim 1, from which claims 5-12, 15-20, and 22 each respectively depend, has been amended to include the limitation of "modifying said image using a sieve filter performing a summation operation that replaces the value of a target pixel with the value of a central pixel in said summation operation when said target pixel differs from said central pixel by a value larger than a threshold." This limitation is not disclosed in the cited prior art, and the applicant therefore requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 5-12, 15-20, and 22 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 24, from which claims 26-29 each respectively depends, has been amended to recite the limitation of "wherein said modifying said image to another bit depth is performed using a Sieve filter that is applied only in the horizontal direction after averaging pixels vertically spaced apart from each other." This limitation is not disclosed in the cited prior art, and the applicant therefore requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 24 and 26-29.

Independent claim 30, from which claims 32 and 33 respectively depend, has been amended to recite the limitation of "wherein said modifying includes a sieve filter represented by

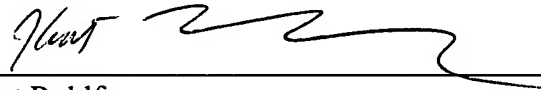
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Reply to Office action of July 13, 2007

$$I_{LP}(x, y) = \frac{\sum_{(i,j) \in E \& |I(i,j) - I(x,y)| < T} I(i, j) \times (N_{total} N(x, y)) \times I(x, y)}{N_{total}}$$

This limitation is not disclosed in the cited prior art, and the applicant therefore requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 30, 32, and 33 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 5-12, 15-20, 22, 24, 26-30, 32, and 33.

Respectfully submitted,



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